

CRCC Family Council

The Department of Corrections publicly recognizes the benefits of inmates maintaining family relationships while incarcerated. Although research has shown the benefits to inmates and their children, there are a number of areas where, with some acceptable changes to local operations, facilities can better assist families to maintain these connections. In an effort to help identify what acceptable changes can be made while at the same time preserving professional security and safety practices to protect the public, visitors, staff and offenders, Family Councils have been established at every prison.

The local family council meeting is open to any interested person; the only restriction is that participants must be approved visitors. The family council at CRCC meets once a month, usually on the first Saturday of the month. Participants can attend in person, or they can attend over the phone by calling in on a toll free number.

Family council meetings are a great opportunity for approved visitors to ask questions, make suggestions, receive information, and share their perspective on the facility. At CRCC a family member is co-chair of the council. Together, the participating visitors and facility staff establish the agenda and work together to resolve issues as they are identified. There are also standing agenda items such as quarterly meetings with the vending contractor to review availability of vending machine items and quarterly Executive Family Council meetings.

The Council meetings are attended by Superintendent Uttecht, Associate Superintendent Bailey, Sergeant Collins (who runs the visiting program), Specialist Edler (who creates the family friendly activities), Specialist Copland (The Family Services Specialist), and other people as needed. As specific areas come up and information is requested the council meetings are used to provide updates Example: updates from J-Pay about the JP3 players, and eMessaging.

People who want to attend either on the phone or in person should contact Mr. Bailey at (509) 543-5800, or david.bailey@doc.wa.gov.